REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-57, 60-72, and 75-77 are now pending in the application. Claims 58, 59, 73 and 74 have been cancelled without prejudice, and Claims 1-34 and 60-70 stand withdrawn from consideration. Claims 35, 40, 46, 52, 71, 72, 75, 76, and 77 are the independent claims under consideration..

Claims 35, 71 and 72 have been amended and Claims 75-77 have been added. Applicants submit that support for the amendments and the new claims can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Applicants appreciate the indication that Claims 35-57 are allowed. Although a minor amendment has been made to Claim 35, Applicants submit that Claim 35 remains patentable over the art of record.

At page 2 of the Office Action, there is a statement that a complete reply to a final rejection must include cancellation of the non-elected claims, or other appropriate action. However, since the outstanding Office Action did not set forth a final rejection, Applicants submit that this requirement is not presently applicable to the withdrawn claims.

Claims 71-74 were rejected under 35.U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by a notoriously well know storage medium that is used to store code for programming a computer. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Office Action states that the recitations of stored "code" are functional recitations, but then asserts that these functional recitations are equivalent to recitations of

printed matter and therefore have been given no patentable weight. Applicants respectfully submit that the PTO's Examination Guidelines for Computer-Related Inventions state:

> "Functional descriptive material is a limitation in the claim and must be considered and addressed in assessing patentability under 35 U.S.C. 103."

M.P.E.P. §2106, §VI. Thus, having deemed the stored codes to be functional recitations, Applicants submit that those recitations should have been given patentable weight by the Examiner. Nevertheless, Claims 71 and 72 have been amended to recite a storage medium that stores a control program for making a computer execute an image process comprising the recited steps, and Applicants submit that the recited limitations are even more clearly entitled to patentable weight. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of Claims 71 and 72 are requested.

Claims 58 and 59 were rejected under 35.U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,737,031 (Tzidon et al.) and U.S. Patent No. 5,729,672 (Ashton). Applicants submit that this rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of those claims.

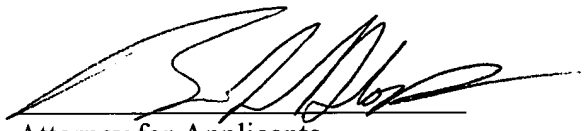
Applicants further submit that the present invention as recited in newly-presented Claims 75-77 is patentable over the art of record. For example, Applicants submit that the art of record does not disclose or suggest at least the feature of calculating a shadow mapping plane based on a shape of a bounding box for a virtual object and a position of virtual illumination, as recited in Claims 75-77. Therefore, Applicants submit that those claims should also be allowed.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth

in the above-mentioned Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, DC office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
Brian L. Klock
Registration No. 36,570

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
BLK/lmj

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